

# EXHIBIT A

# FAX COVER SHEET

**TO**

NAME: Cotter & Cotter  
COMPANY:

FAX PHONE: (716)-634-5362

**FROM**

NAME: Direct Number: 810-7999  
COMPANY: UNIVERSITY ORTHO - MAPLEMERE  
111 N. Maplemere Road, Suite 100  
Williamsville, NY 14221-1200

VOICE PHONE: (716)-204-3200

FAX PHONE: (716)-204-4337

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Joseph M. Kowalski, MD  
Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery  
State University of New York at Buffalo  
Spine Surgery, Board Certified  
T: 716.810.7999 | F: 716.204.3253

February 22, 2024

David B. Cotter  
380 Cleveland Dr.  
Buffalo, NY 14215

Re: Scott Barnes  
Date of Birth 8/18/1968

To whom it may concern:

I performed major lumbar spine surgery on Scott Barnes on November 14, 2023, at the Erie County Medical Center in Buffalo New York. This was an extensive surgery with implantation of hardware. Typical and recommended postoperative follow-up should be performed by a spine surgeon within 6 to 12 weeks, and regular intervals thereafter. This would include physical examination of his surgical wound, neurologic exam and x-rays to evaluate healing. He will require pain medication for the same period of time. Physical therapy is required to ensure proper body mechanics to increase his strength, endurance and help with mobility. He should also have access to a firm mattress/bed. Failure to do so may compromise the healing process resulting in long-term pain and impair his recovery. A copy of this letter will be sent to Traci Nitzel, girlfriend to Scott Barnes. Authorization for release of health information/HIPAA is on file in our record along this to do so. Please contact me if you require further information.

Joseph M. Kowalski, MD  
Orthopaedic Spine Surgeon  
716-810-7999

